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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

14 MAR 1962

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy
The Attorney General
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Having directly confronted the consequences of communist activity in the youth and student field on your recent trip, you may well be interested in the attached paper. It is the result of considerable experience in coping with the communist offensive on this front, and its suggestions for an expanded and better coordinated governmental attack on the problem make sense to me. Within the limits of our covert action responsibility we would, of course, be anxious to cooperate.

I have also sent a copy of this paper to Ralph Dungan for information.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN A. MCCONE

John A. McCone
Director

Attachment

Retyped: EO/DCI [] 8 Mar 62

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430075

100-10881

Executive Registry

62-1324

1 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Youth and Student Problem

1. Attached hereto are two memoranda which I recommend you sign and forward.

2. I recognize that you may have other ideas for handling this matter but I am certain that the addressees of the two memoranda are two individuals who have a primary interest in this subject.

3. I think that [redacted] of the IO Division, has written a first-class paper, and I would like to see the Agency be in the forefront of those making recommendations in this important field. As you know, [redacted] has been working on youth and student affairs for some time and is thoroughly versed in the subject.

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[redacted]
Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

Attachments

Prepared by

SUBJECT: Brief of Paper on the Role Played by Students in World Affairs

1. The Attorney General's meetings with Japanese and Indonesian students constitute a reminder that in 1960 and 1961 we witnessed the accession to power in many uncommitted areas of young men who not long ago were leaders or active members of student and youth movements. The President in his 21 February press conference said that "this is one of the most serious and, I think, in many ways stimulating problems we face--how to tell our story in a way that makes it new and exciting to young students and also have them examine objectively under the light of present circumstances the serious failures of the Marxist system...I think that is our job..."

2. The prominent role played by students in decisive or critical political developments in Turkey, Japan, Cuba, Korea, Venezuela, and the Congo are well known. These developments have forcefully underscored both the importance of youth and student leaders and organizations abroad in relation to U.S. foreign policy and the intense and continuing Communist threat in this field. The student problem cannot be viewed in isolation; it is linked with many underlying economic, social, and political problems on which Communism feeds--illiteracy, poverty, sickness, economic chaos and dependence, authoritarian and opportunistic political systems and leaders, injustices of all kinds. The amalgam of these critical problems, the impatient inexperience of the students, and Communist manipulation constitutes a very serious threat to democratic growth in the underdeveloped areas. The predominant attitude toward the issue of Communism among students in underdeveloped areas is that it is an extraneous issue injected mainly by the U.S. to enlist the have-not countries in an anti-Communist crusade which is irrelevant to them and which protects the status quo of the wealthy and selfish U.S. at the expense of their own progress.

3. Although the incidents which gave rise to the President's remarks occurred in the Far East, it is in Latin America that the situation we are describing is most threatening. Latin American countries are not under outright Communist control, but practically all of the major ones are heavily penetrated and influenced by well-organized Communist minorities often consisting of the most dynamic and promising young Communist leaders. Primarily in Latin America, too, the Communist program is making greater headway among secondary, and even primary school students. This is assisted strongly and effectively by the school-teachers, who have long been a target for Communist infiltration and indoctrination.

4. USIA has inaugurated a student-affairs officer program which has so far selected and trained several recent college graduates for two-year tours in Latin American posts. AID is in a position to contribute heavily to the improvement of the physical plant of universities and colleges in the underdeveloped areas, to teacher training and language training, and--along with the Department of State and private agencies--to hospitality programs for foreign students and

trainees in the U.S. Peace Corps programs are squarely in this problem area; these programs should be coordinated with the government-wide effort. [redacted]

[redacted] The Department of Defense is actually responsible for more youth and student exchanges than all other government agencies combined--nearly all of them military cadets or young officer trainees of various types and specialities.

PROPOSAL

1. That a special task force on students and youth be created, operating with a specific Presidential mandate and centered in the Department of State, to study the problem set forth by the President.
2. The task force could be headed by a private citizen well acquainted with educational and student affairs and should call upon both governmental and non-governmental organizations for its operatives.
3. Its objectives should be to prepare, by 30 June 1962, a comprehensive, well articulated, concrete, carefully targeted program of coordinated action in the youth and student field.
4. It should also establish the frame of reference for an office of youth and student affairs in the Department of State to coordinate and, in some instances, implement the program.

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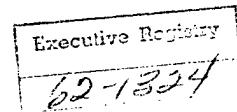
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